

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Medically Disqualifying Factors for Military Service in North Korea 2. Malingering among Military Personnel and Factory Workers	DATE DISTR.	19 November 1955	
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		This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The following conditions disqualify personnel for service in the North Korean Army:

- a. Loss of limb or fingers or more than two toes.
- b. A height of less than 145 centimeters or a weight of less than 50 kilograms.
- c. If chest measurement upon expiration does not exceed in diameter one-half the height of the candidate.
- d. Minor infections of the ears or eyes.
- e. Hypertension.
- f. Venereal disease (until the candidate can present a certificate of complete recovery signed by a licensed doctor of medicine).
- g. Hernias.¹
- h. Cardiac abnormalities.
- i. Contagious diseases (until the candidate can produce a certificate of good health signed by a licensed doctor of medicine).
- j. Psychiatric ~~disorders~~ (until the candidate can produce a certificate of good health from a licensed doctor of medicine).
- k. Diabetes.
- l. The presence of sugar or albumin in the urine (until extensive laboratory tests rule out the presence of diabetes or kidney disease).
- m. Hemorrhoids.¹

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2. Approximately 20 percent of the total number of candidates examined for military service as of March 1955 were found to be permanently disqualified for military duty.²
3. As of March 1955 approximately 20 percent of military personnel and factory workers malingered. The most common feigned illnesses noted were loss of hearing, tuberculosis, psychosis and vitamin A deficiency.³ Malingerers are reported to Korean Labor Party section officials who impose jail sentences and, in rare instances, the death penalty.

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Comments

1. Most cases are corrected surgically at a government-operated hospital and the individual is then qualified for military service.
2. Physical examinations are poorly conducted; most examinations take about ten or 15 minutes per candidate, including all laboratory tests.
3. The most difficult of these to detect is vitamin A deficiency because not enough is known about the proper method of determining what constitutes such a deficiency.

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